

OUTGOING MESSAGE

Approved For Release 2005/04/21 : CIA-RDP78S01932A000100010135-8

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ITEM NO: 5 DATE: 30 JAN 74
 SUBJECT: CAMBODIA--POPULATION CONTROL MEASURES IN PHNOM PENH

THE GOVERNMENT HAS PROMULGATED FOUR NEW DECREE-LAWS THAT GO BEYOND PREVIOUS LEGISLATION WHICH SUSPENDS OR CURTAILS TEMPORARILY SUCH CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS AS FREEDOM OF THE PRESS AND ASSEMBLY. BESIDES STRENGTHENING INTERNAL SECURITY, THE GOVERNMENT HOPES THE NEW MEASURES WILL RESTRICT ANY POTENTIAL ANTIGOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES BY DISGRUNTLED STUDENT AND TEACHER ELEMENTS IN THE CAPITAL.

THE LAWS ARE BASED ON THE GOVERNMENT'S MANDATE TO GOVERN BY DECREE DURING A "STATE OF DANGER." THE LEGISLATURE RECENTLY APPROVED AN EXTENSION OF THIS MANDATE TO EARLY APRIL. THE LAWS FOLLOW THE

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GOVERNMENT'S RECENT BROADENING OF CURFEW HOURS AND THE CLOSURE OF ALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOL IN PHNOM PENH. ONCE THE KHMER COMMUNIST MILITARY THREAT TO THE CITY EASES, THE NEW MEASURES MAY BE RELAXED.

IN ADDITION TO THE CONTINUING PROBLEMS WITH STUDENT AND TEACHER GROUPS, THE GOVERNMENT NOW FACES SOME SIGNS OF WAR-WEARINESS WITHIN THE BUDDHIST CLERGY. A NEW ORGANIZATION OF NEUTRALIST MONKS REPORTEDLY IS STARTING A HUNGER STRIKE TODAY TO FORCE "KHMER ON BOTH SIDES" TO BEGIN PEACE NEGOTIATIONS. THE STRIKE OBVIOUSLY WILL PUT MORE PRESSURE ON THE GOVERNMENT THAN ON THE COMMUNISTS.

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